REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are subject to a restriction requirement. Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 15-20 be canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-14 remain pending. Applicant believes that any amendments herein to the patent application do not add new matter to it.

Restriction Requirement

The present Office Action alleges that a restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1-14, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 701, subclass 117.
- II. Claims 15-20, drawn to a process, classified in class 701, subclass 210.

The present Office Action also alleges that if Invention I is elected, a selection of a single species of each of the following Markush group of species is required:

- A. the first system variable available in applicant's traffic communication system;
 - B. the signal available in applicant's traffic communication system;
 - C. the devices available in applicant's traffic communication system;
 - D. the areas available in applicant's traffic communication system; and
- E. the communication devices available in applicant's traffic communication system.

However, the present Office Action alleges that if Invention II is elected, a selection of a single species of the following Markush group of species is required:

F. the system variable available in applicant's method.

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Election Without Traverse Between Invention I and Invention II

Applicant elects without traverse Invention I, recited in Claims 1-14, drawn to an apparatus.

Election of Species Without Traverse

In order to comply with the requirement for restriction, the Applicant elects without traverse:

"roadway conditions" of species A;

"an acoustic signal" of species B;

"stop light" of species C;

"a roof" of species D; and

"an acoustic transmitter" of species E.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP

Dated:

3/31/04

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